



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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FIVE MEN CHARGED FEDERALLY WITH KILLING PROTECTED WILDLIFE IN COLLIER COUNTY

Fort Myers, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the return of a federal indictment charging Zachary James Mato (age 23, of Marco Island, Florida), Mark Cullen Shaughnessy (age 23, of Pensacola, Florida), Joseph W. Gursky, Jr. (age 24, of Pensacola, Florida), Alexander B. Wilhelm, Jr. (age 25, of Corpus Christi, Texas), and Mark Lewis McClure (age 24, of Corpus Christi, Texas) with the unlawful killing of migratory birds. If convicted, each defendant faces six months in federal prison and a fine of \$15,000.

According to the indictment, on February 17, 2009, in Collier County, Florida, the defendants hunted, and killed several migratory birds; namely, White Ibis, Double-crested Cormorants, Little Blue Herons, Tree Swallows, Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Tricolored Herons.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.